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# Pentagon official warns of Soviet defense advantage

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The Soviet Union is improving its capability to deploy a nationwide missile defense system in violation of the 1972 ABM treaty, and the United States should be prepared to make a military response, a senior Pentagon official warned yesterday.

Richard Perle, assistant secretary of defense for international security policy, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that, "We plan to make the compliance issue a significant element of new arms control negotiations with the USSR."

In prepared testimony, the assistant secretary said, "We must now create penalties for violations that deny the benefits of the violations to the USSR."

"By penalties, I mean U.S. responses ... [that] could involve research, development or deployments which at least offset the advantage obtained by the Soviets," said the official.

He said two new Soviet high-altitude, anti-aircraft SAM missile systems — the SA-10 and the SA-X-12 — are now being deployed and would have potential for shooting down ballistic missiles if

combined with large, so-called phased array radars.

American surveillance satellites have disclosed that the Soviets have built six of these radars in apparent violation of the 1972 treaty. "Because large radars take years to construct, the radar limitations are its [the treaty's] core provision," the Pentagon's arms control specialist said in prepared testimony.

The 1972 treaty limited each nation to one ABM system under the theory that a more stable peace would be realized and a nuclear attack more readily deterred if each side were equally vulnerable to missiles.

Mr. Perle told the committee "at this time, we are looking at a series of military response options to a Soviet ABM 'breakout.' The response needed for the type of Soviet breakouts "projected by the intelligence community would be expensive," he warned.

An American response "could mean reacting not only to clear evidence, but also to ambiguous evidence, because such evidence would probably be the only type we would get if the Soviets choose a covert deployment approach," the official said.

In perhaps his most hard-hitting statement yet on violations, the

assistant secretary said, "The Soviet Union has violated almost all of the most important arms control agreements signed since 1963."

The Standing Consultative Commission (SCC) set up to resolve arms control disputes "has been largely unsuccessful over the years in resolving compliance concerns," Mr. Perle said.

For example, the official said the United States resolved the violation against the SALT agreement provision of no more than one heavy ICBM "by accepting the SS-19 as a 'light' ICBM. There are now 2,000 warheads aimed at us on SS-19 missiles."

The Defense Department also has determined that the Soviets have flight-tested the SS-X-25 as their second new ICBM "in violation of the treaty limit of one new type," Mr. Perle said.

He said the Soviets have flight-tested both a new medium, solid-fueled ICBM similar to the American MX and the SS-X-25, which is similar to the U.S. Minuteman missile currently deployed in silos.

"Moreover, they [the Soviets] have other new ICBMs under development, and we are concerned that they, too, might violate SALT II limitations," Mr. Perle said.